



Environment Canada
Parks Service

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Canada

Participation

SPRING 1992

WESTERN REGION

Plan to be involved!

Are you fond of a particular national park? Committed to wilderness and wild spaces? Keen to see that our society learns about its past successes, and learns from its past mistakes?

Then perhaps you'd like to play a role in park planning and management — by commenting on proposals, participating in projects, or entering into a long-term cooperative arrangement.

In the pages of *Participation*, you will find a sampling of the projects, planning programs and management activities that the Western Region of the Canadian Parks Service is undertaking on your behalf today. And you will find out how you can get involved.

CPS Western Region is responsible for most of the national parks and national historic sites in B.C. & Alberta. Of these, Banff is the best known and most visited. But there are also lesser known Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site (in Victoria), Elk Island National Park (east of Edmonton), Mt. Revelstoke National Park (in B.C.'s Columbia Range) and




Near Bow Summit, Banff National Park

many more, each portraying a representative slice of Canadian natural or cultural history.

Until last year, *Participation* served mainly to report on public consultation programs in support of park planning. However, the need to collaborate in the protection, presentation and commemoration of our heritage has summoned a much broader role.

Participation has become a vehicle for not only sharing planning information, but for exchanging ideas toward the wise custodianship and long-term sustainability of western Canada's priceless natural and cultural heritage.

Plan to be involved! 



Offert également en français



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Plan to be involved! Put your name and address and the programs you're interested in on the mail-back card (page 24), and send it in to us.

A message from the Director General

For more than 100 years, the Canadian Parks Service has been quietly and capably managing Canadian historic and natural resources. Recent years have seen substantially greater challenges to the integrity of these resources. While the public has seemed content to allow CPS to manage these threats on its own, it has become obvious that our inwardly focused management approach is no longer appropriate.

You, as a Canadian citizen, are an important player in protecting Canadian heritage resources. Your involvement and strong support are not only desired, but will be essential in fighting the battles that are yet to come.

If we are to meet our most ambitious goal, that of sustaining heritage resources by both protecting ecological integrity and promoting environmental stewardship, we need your participation.



This newsletter signals a strong affirmation of CPS commitment to public involvement. The organization is ready to listen and eager to deliver. We look forward to working with you. We are convinced that, with your strength, we can rise successfully to meet this decade's challenges.

Sandra B.M. Davis
Director General
Western Region

Our Mission

The Western Region of the Canadian Parks Service will effectively protect and commemorate the integrity of the natural and cultural resources for which we are responsible; communicate the environmental message; demonstrate leadership in resource management; effectively motivate staff; and foster the visitation, support, and involvement of others.

(Choosing our Destiny - A Strategic Plan for the Western Region - CPS, 1990)

Core values reflect strategic direction

Choosing Our Destiny, the CPS Western Region's strategic plan (1990), offers broad direction for everything we do, including developing management plans for parks and historic sites.

Our core values, as listed in the *Destiny* document, help rally us to the challenges facing parks and sites:

Protection

We believe that the preservation and protection of Western Canada's cultural and natural resources is essential to environmental health and to the definition of Canadian identity.

Visitors

We believe in the right of Canadians and their international guests to appreciate, enjoy, and learn about Canadian parks in the Western Region.

Staff

We believe that the family of people who work for the Canadian Parks Service in the Western Region are integral to preserving and presenting heritage.

Partners

We recognize that the support and involvement of others is essential to achieving our goals.

Leadership

We believe that the Western Region of the Canadian Parks Service has a responsibility to provide visible leadership in the environmental community.

Our core values point the way for a set of strategic priorities that underpin each and every CPS initiative as the decade progresses. 🍀

What is CPS Western Region?

CPS Western Region is one of five regional divisions of the Canadian Parks Service (the others are Prairie & Northern, Ontario, Québec and Atlantic). Western Region covers the provinces of B.C. and Alberta.

Here is CPS Western Region, in a nutshell:

- 10 national parks
- 8 national historic sites
- 5 townsites
- 3 heritage rivers
- 3,069 cost-sharing agreements.
- 13,640 year-round residents
- 8,900,000 visitors a year (63 per cent of the national total!)

If you'd like information on a park or site in another region, please let us know (on page 24).

CANADIAN PARKS SERVICE WESTERN REGION

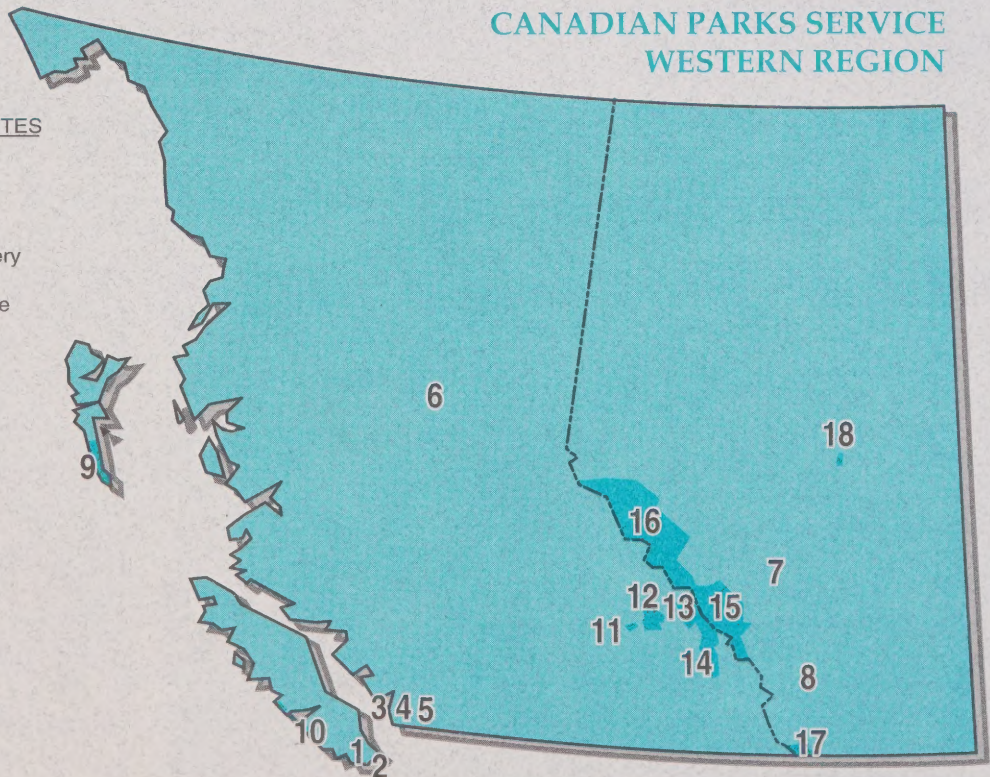
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES

1. Fort Rodd Hill
2. Fisgard Lighthouse
3. St Roch
4. Fort Langley
5. Gulf of Georgia Cannery
6. Fort St. James
7. Rocky Mountain House
8. Bar U Ranch*

NATIONAL PARKS

9. Gwaii Haanas/South Moresby**
10. Pacific Rim**
11. Mount Revelstoke
12. Glacier
13. Yoho
14. Kootenay
15. Banff
16. Jasper
17. Waterton Lakes
18. Elk Island

*proposed **Reserve



'Monster cannery' the focus of joint planning

*Alison Manley, Superintendent
Gulf of Georgia Cannery
Steveston, B.C.*

Cooperative management planning has moored at the wharf of the "monster cannery."

Otherwise known as the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site, the 'monster' was one of B.C.'s largest canneries in the early 1900's. The Canadian Parks Service purchased the site in 1984 to com-



Student tours of the Visitor Centre are among activities currently promoted and organized by the Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society.

memorate the west coast fishing industry after a colourful operating career beginning in 1894.

The cannery is situated at the mouth of the south arm of the Fraser River in Steveston, B.C. Its collection of canning line and herring reduction artifacts numbers more than 10,000.

During the coming months, the site will be subject to intense scrutiny as its future development is jointly determined by the Canadian Parks Service and the Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society, with the assistance of public consultation.

Management planning will result in an overall concept for the historic site that will outline a development strategy for the coming decade. A draft plan is expected to be ready for public review in 1992.

In order to ensure its long-term protection, the 5,000-square-metre cannery has been structurally stabilized and had a sprinkler



The Gulf of Georgia Cannery, operated as a cannery, reduction plant and net loft for more than 80 years, was one of the largest fish plants in British Columbia.

system installed. Although the buildings are not yet open to the public, the Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society operates an on-site visitor centre, offers interpretive school programs, and hopes to provide public tours in future.

You can throw your support behind the cannery by joining the Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society. Contact Audrey Matheson at (604) 272-5045.

If you'd like to become involved in the management planning process, please contact the Western Region Public Consultation Office. ➤

'Old girl' deserves the best

*Gordon DeJean, Site Manager
St. Roch
Vancouver, B.C.*

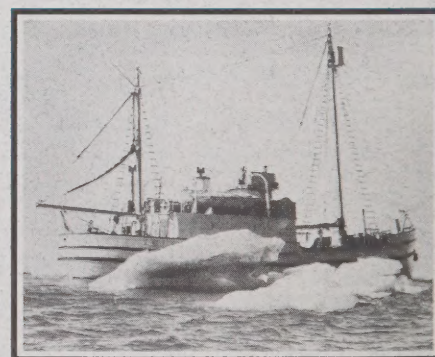
The Canadian Parks Service and the City of Vancouver announced in May 1991 that they will work together to restore the support cradle of the St. Roch, a 64-year-old police vessel.

Operated by CPS as a national historic site, the St. Roch patrolled the Western Arctic, serving Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachments between 1928 and 1948.

During the Second World War, the St. Roch became the second ship in the world to successfully navigate the Northwest Passage, sailing from Vancouver to Halifax and back again.

The restoration program is well underway, with the new cradle now complete. Repairs to the roof of the building that shelters the "old girl" will be finished later this year.

A central attraction of the Vancouver Maritime Museum, the ship was first hauled ashore in the



RCMP schooner St. Roch on a post-1944 supply mission to the Western Arctic.

1950s, and restored in 1974 to reflect Canada's Arctic and maritime history. ➤

Historic sites march with militia

*Dave Biederman, Superintendent
Fort Rodd Hill NHS
& Fisgard Lighthouse NHS
Victoria, B.C.*

At Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse National Historic Sites, we've joined forces with the Armed Forces.

Since last May, Canadian Parks Service staff have been working with the Fifth (British Columbia) Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery to promote awareness of the site's cultural heritage. The regiment, an active militia unit, is the same military regiment that manned the Victoria-Esquamalt Coast Defences starting in 1878. Fort Rodd Hill played an instrumental role in those defences, while Fisgard Lighthouse, located a few steps from the fort, has been faithfully guiding military and civilian vessels through the entrance to Esquamalt Harbor since 1860.

During the summer of 1991, the Fifth Regiment's Museum and



Dave King (left), project officer, and Victor Chance, CPS volunteer, with one of eight artifact display cases of the Museum and Archives Society exhibit.

Archives Society, a registered non-profit group, displayed artifact and archival materials at Fort Rodd Hill. Six society volunteers attended the exhibits and assisted in site programs and visitor reception and information duties.

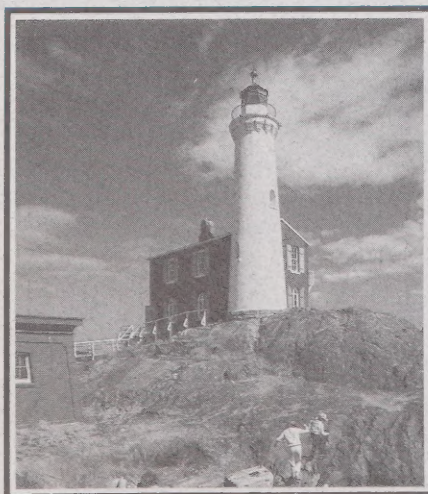
The society's presence was a big boost to the historic sites. The next cooperative phase will be to assess the feasibility of a permanent museum and volunteer program, for implementation in 1992. ➤

Cultural history makes a natural link

There was a time when national parks were managed exclusively for their natural values, and the operation of historic sites dealt chiefly with artifacts and other aspects of history. But in the Western Region of the Canadian Parks Service, that time is passing.

This spring, a conservation plan dealing with not only cultural but natural components will be developed as a pilot project at Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse National Historic Sites.

The plan will mark the first time that a historic site's total resources — natural and cultural — have been integrated in a compre-



Fisgard Lighthouse, the first permanent light on the Canadian Pacific Coast, was built in 1860.

hensive manner into the planning process.

The plan framework will capture information and inventory gaps, threats, required interventions, research, conservation needs and long-term protection strategies.

It will parallel similar efforts in national parks, where cultural resources such as heritage buildings and archaeological sites have been given new prominence in conservation planning efforts.

CPS believes such integration to be a much more logical approach to its overall goal: the sustainability of heritage resources. ➤



Planning gears up at McLean sawmill

*Katharine O'Brian
Public Consultation Specialist
Calgary*

The Canadian Parks Service, the Alberni Valley Museum and the British Columbia Heritage Trust have teamed up to prepare a management plan for the R.B. McLean Lumber Company National Historic Site.

Located about 10 km outside Port Alberni, B.C., the lumber company complex includes a steam-driven sawmill and a nearly intact village, representative of an early West Coast lumbering community.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recommended in June, 1989 that the McLean complex be declared a site of national significance. The site is considered to be the best known example of an early export mill.

The management plan, which went to contract last fall, will evaluate a range of development possibilities at the site. The joint planning



Built in 1938 by the R.B. McLean Lumber Co., this sawmill typifies both the smaller mills of the 1920s and the cargo mills of the late 19th century.

team, including representatives of the three cooperating agencies, will examine alternative ways of presenting the lumbering theme, providing visitor opportunities, and protecting the buildings, equipment and related artifacts.

Under Canada's *Green Plan*, CPS is committed to commemorat-

ing British Columbia's forest industry, as one of seven key historic themes not currently represented in the system of national historic site.

The McLean mill will commemorate the forest industry theme with a focus on logging, lumber manufacturing and camp life. ➤

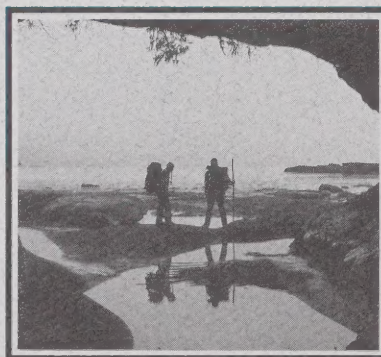
Concept of "wilderness" is explored

*Randy Mitchell
Director, Services and Facilities
Management, Calgary*

What is "wilderness?" Does allowing 100 hikers a day on the West Coast Trail provide a "wilderness experience?"

The Canadian Parks Service has prepared a "wilderness guideline" in order to advance our understanding of the concept, and to guide the consistent management of wilderness areas in the western national parks.

The guideline's creation was spurred by 1988 amendments to the National Parks Act, which declare that wilderness areas will be designated by legislation, within which only activities that do not



To preserve the wilderness character of the West Coast Trail in Pacific Rim National Park, CPS has initiated a reservation and free-permit system that allows 52 hikers to start the trail daily from May through September.

impair wilderness will be permitted.

Included in the guideline will be a vision for wilderness, and guiding principles for:

- Designation and protection of park wilderness areas.
- Provision of opportunities for high-quality visitor experiences.
- Provision of facilities and services for wilderness visitors.
- Management activities associated with wilderness protection and use.

Public participation during the preparation or review of park management plans will play a key role in determining the final boundaries and appropriate uses of wilderness areas. What is your perception of "wilderness?" ➤

Haida Nation and the Canadian Parks Service working together

The Haida Nation and the Canadian Parks Service are finalizing an agreement to work together in the planning, management and operation of the Gwaii Haanas/South Moresby area. The draft agreement focuses on two common needs: to protect and preserve the area, and to sustain the continuity of Haida culture.

The partnership with the Haida is an innovative model for full involvement of aboriginal peoples and the federal government in all aspects of planning, operating and managing protected areas.

The South Moresby area, in British Columbia's Queen Charlotte Islands, drew national and international attention during the 1980s, when Haida protest over logging peaked. In 1988, Canada agreed to establish both a national park reserve and a national marine park reserve to protect the area's outstanding natural and cultural heritage values.

The national park reserve, which is some 90 km in length, will comprise 1,470 square km of land. The national marine park reserve will comprise 3,400 square km of the adjacent waters.

Haida people call South Moresby "Gwaii Haanas," meaning "islands of wonder and beauty." Gwaii Haanas is an area of great importance to the Haida; it is a place where their culture flourished and where they lived in considerable numbers. The Council of the Haida Nation have designated much of this area as a Haida Heritage Site.

The management and operation of Gwaii Haanas/South Moresby is an exciting challenge, because of the diversity and richness of its resources. Lying some 100 km west of the mainland, the area contains a number of significant plant and animal species associated with its "island ecology." The area includes a World Heritage Site at



In partnership with CPS, Haida watchmen greet visitors at ancestral sites such as Ninstints.

Ninstints on Anthony Island (Sgan Gwaii). This site, which UNESCO declared to be "of importance to the History of Mankind," contains remains of 32 totem and mortuary poles and 10 longhouses.

A separate agreement between the Government of Canada and the Council of the Haida Nation will be required for comanagement of the marine area. Management of the marine park reserve will require accommodation of significant commercial fisheries. Unlike our land-based parks, the *National Marine Park Policy* focuses on conservation rather than

protection or preservation, permitting sustainable native, commercial and recreational fisheries to continue.

During the past year, CPS and the Haida Nation have initiated a number of essential projects to ensure the protection of significant resources, provide for basic visitor needs, and begin long-term planning for the area.

Public consultation will begin in 1992 in conjunction with planning for the Gwaii Haanas/South Moresby area. If you would like to get involved in the future of this national treasure, please indicate your interest on the mailback card on page 24. ➔

Lyell Island rehabilitation

A two-year program is under way to restore areas affected by past logging operations on Lyell Island, now protected as part of the Gwaii Haanas/South Moresby area.

Between 1975 and 1987, about 3,000 of the island's 17,000 hectares were clear-cut logged. In 1987, as federal/provincial negotiations continued over the fate of the area, a moratorium on logging of Lyell Island was declared.

The forestry companies involved at the time of the decision to protect the Gwaii Haanas/South Moresby area were not required to finish their normal silviculture and road deactivation programs. Current rehabilitation efforts include slope stabilization and the protection of streams containing important fish habitat.



Public voice strong conservation mandate for Lake O'Hara plan

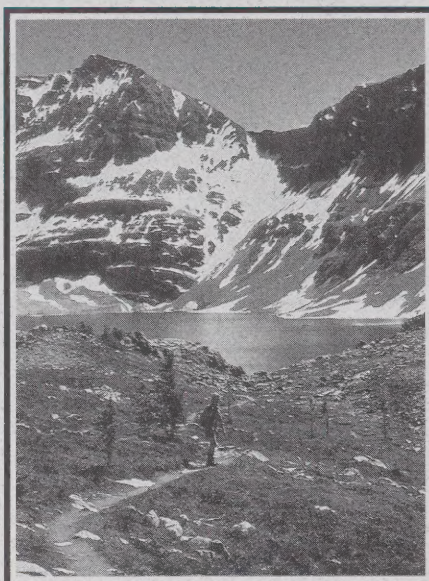
Katharine O'Brian
Public Consultation Specialist
Calgary

A plan to guide the long-term management of the Lake O'Hara area in Yoho National Park is nearing completion, following a series of pivotal public open houses and stakeholder group meetings during the summer and fall of 1991.

"Public comments on the plan proposals have been instrumental in strengthening the conservation focus for the Lake O'Hara area," said O'Hara management planner Steve de Keijzer. "We received a clear message from the public that preservation of the area is paramount, and that the final plan decisions reflect that sentiment."

The main objectives of the plan are to ensure resource protection, and to maintain an "uncrowded" backcountry experience for Lake O'Hara visitors.

The lake, nestled high in the Rockies on the B.C. side of the continental divide, is home to both mountain goat and grizzly bear. Access to the area, popular with



A day-use quota will be maintained in order to ensure ecosystem protection and provide an "uncrowded" experience for O'Hara visitors.

park visitors for the last 90 years, is by hiking trail or by bus on a restricted road.


CPS received more than 80 written submissions on the draft plan proposals, as well as countless verbal comments.

Here are some of the plan decisions and recommendations:

- No expansion of the campground, lodge or Alpine Club facilities will be permitted.
- Elizabeth Parker Hut will not be replaced, and will retain the current capacity of 24.
- A maximum of two campsites and six day-use bus seats can be booked during a single reservation.
- Current day-use bus quota of 36 will be maintained; some will be available on a one-day advance booking.
- Dogsledding will be allowed on a permit-only basis.

The plan includes guidelines for trail maintenance and upgrading. It recommends improvements to the existing facilities and services to comply with state-of-the-art environmental practices.

The plan is expected to be approved by the superintendent of Yoho National Park this spring.

If you would like to receive a summary of public input, or a copy of the final plan, please contact the Western Region Public Consultation Office. 

A sampling of comments on the draft Lake O'Hara plan

- In a day and age when many parks are geared toward mass tourism instead of conservation and a quality experience, it was a delight to receive your draft plan for Lake O'Hara.
- Emphasis must always be on protection, with as little development as possible.
- O'Hara is a treasure of Canadian geography. Continue to preserve the area by all means available.
- Environmental protection, based on scientific, not social information, should assume its rightful place at the top of the decision-making pile.
- I strongly agree with the day-use quota and the reasons for it. The quota must be maintained, in spite of budget constraint. Thanks for keeping me informed.



Waterton's plan strengthens cultural preservation

*Michele Deakin, Planning Assistant
Calgary*

A recent program to review the Waterton Lakes National Park Management Plan has indicated exciting new directions for the park — and achieved important milestones for the Canadian Parks Service planning process.

The plan, submitted this winter for the approval of Environment Minister Jean Charest, is the result of extensive public participation. Consultations were conducted with surrounding communities, land owners and agencies managing nearby areas. The general

public was invited to workshops held in Lethbridge, Cardston, Waterton, Pincher Creek and Calgary.

The planning process opened doors to discussion with the local native community on the interpretation and protection of spiritual sites within the park. Resulting coopera-

Waterton's plan demonstrates a strong commitment to protecting cultural resources by applying Zone I - Special Preservation status to 14 archaeological and historic sites...

tive approaches stand to benefit the native community, the park, and its visitors.

There are about 250 archaeological sites, including native encampments and buffalo jumps, in


the park. Waterton's plan demonstrates a strong commitment to protecting cultural resources by applying Zone I - Special Preservation status to 14 archaeological and historic sites, as well as providing guidelines for the protection and management of the remaining sites.

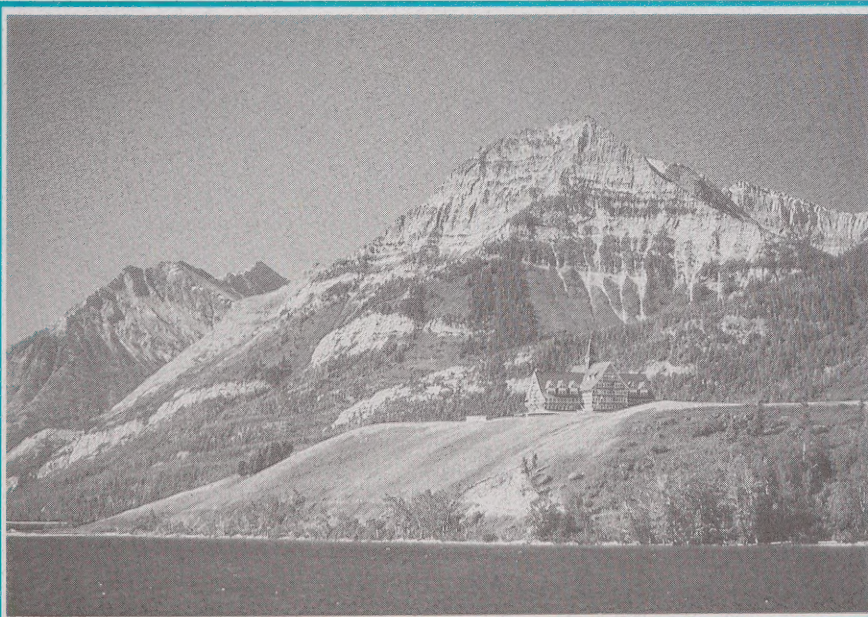
Public input during the development of the plan made it clear to CPS that local tourism operators support eco-tourism for Waterton Lakes.

The general public expressed some concern regarding tourism, especially with marketing and partnerships, pointing out the need to avoid over-development and over-crowding. There was broad public support for a direction compatible with *Canada's Green Plan* and with the legal requirement for CPS to maintain the ecological integrity of Waterton Lakes National Park.

Public input also reflected a recognition that Waterton Lakes cannot be all things to all people — and that management of the park should be in tandem with the management of surrounding lands.

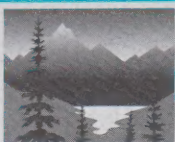
"Resources in Waterton Lakes National Park," states the plan, "will be managed on a regional ecosystem basis in close cooperation with managers of lands surrounding the park ... opportunities for high quality park experiences will be provided, but not all needs or expectations will be met, and the character of the community will be that of a leisurely paced village."

A summary of public input to the plan will be released this spring, with a summary of the approved plan to follow upon the signature of the Minister. 



Waterton Lakes occupies 505 square km of Rocky Mountain terrain and prairie grassland on the U.S.- Canada boundary in southwest Alberta. Established in 1895, it is one of Canada's oldest national parks. With its twin, Glacier National Park in Montana, it forms an international peace park.





Banff shows how plans are put into action

Judy Otton, Park Planner
Banff National Park

After much time and effort — and considerable public input — the Banff National Park Management Plan was signed into effect in 1988. For the park, however, the work had only just begun. After all, planning is not an end in itself; the success of a plan can only be measured by its eventual implementation.

Here are some key areas where the provisions of Banff's management plan have been put into practice:

Resource protection and management

- Wildlife mortality along the twinned portion of the Trans-Canada Highway has been greatly reduced through fencing and other actions.
- Ecological principles are being applied to a far greater extent in resource management and planning activities, such as the decision to allow natural water regimes to prevail in the Vermilion Lakes.
- The park is actively managing and maintaining areas of natural vegetation that depend on fire as part of their natural cycle.
- A cultural resources planning and management capability is being established in the park.

Backcountry opportunities and facilities

- Several major trail and backcountry campground improvement projects are complete or in progress (e.g. Bryant Creek and Healy Pass trails).
- Backcountry lodges, alpine huts, trail shelters and group camps are being managed according to the

provisions of the plan. The Ten Mile and Shadow Lake lodges are being redeveloped in accordance with redevelopment guidelines. The Alpine Club of Canada has replaced the former Bow Hut with an improved structure. The Freshfield Hut has been removed.

- The park's backcountry is being actively managed according to the backcountry opportunity spectrum outlined in the management plan.

Day-use facilities and services

- A picnic area has been developed for tour groups at Coleman Creek on the Icefields Parkway. The



Prescribed burning is now an integral part of Banff National Park's vegetation management program.

- Bow Summit day-use area is being upgraded.
- Picnic sites have been removed from the Trans-Canada Highway, and improved signage is in place to direct visitors to the Bow Valley Parkway.
- An area plan has been prepared for the Vermilion Lakes. Implementation of the area plan, including a detailed wetlands ecological study, has begun.

Recreational activities

- An expanded program for track-setting nordic ski trails is in place.



Several initiatives are complete or under way to enhance visitors' understanding and appreciation of Banff's natural and cultural heritage features.

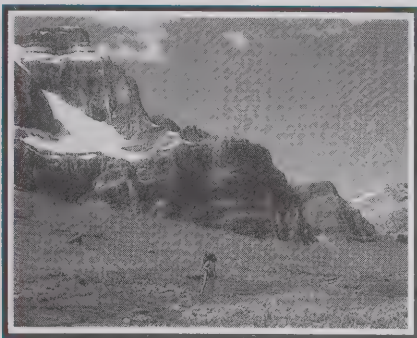
- No new licences for commercial rafting, boat rentals or horse concessions have been issued.
- Adjustments have been made to the list of trails where bicycling is permitted, in response to activity monitoring.
- The Paradise-Taylor and Redearth-Egypt areas have been closed to grazing and camping with horses. A pamphlet on low-impact horse use is now being distributed to horse users.

Frontcountry accommodation

- No new leases for commercial accommodation have been granted outside the boundaries of the Town of Banff and the Lake Louise Visitor Centre. Any redevelopment has proceeded in accordance with the appropriate redevelopment guidelines.
- Two Jack Lake campground is being upgraded.
- The Spray Hostel has been removed now that the Town of Banff Hostel is in operation. The Lake Louise Hostel — a joint Alpine Club of Canada/Canadian Hostelling Association project — has opened to the public.

Access

- All backcountry roads have been closed to motor vehicles and some action has been taken to revert selected sections to an appropriate trail standard.
- The road to the Sunshine Village ski area has been paved.



Maintaining the integrity of Banff National Park's wilderness areas has been a priority over the past 5 years.

Community concepts

- The Town of Banff is being administered under local self-government. The town boundary has been set through legislation and the Banff Municipal Plan is complete.
- Development in the Lake Louise Visitor Centre has taken place according to the 1979 Action Plan and 1981 Development Guidelines.

Communication services

- The Lake Louise Visitor Reception Centre has been constructed and serves as a major information and interpretation facility.
- A number of innovations in video and interactive computer technology are in use to enable staff to provide better visitor information.
- Improvements to the park's communications services are being further defined through the Banff Tourism, Recreation and Communications Plan (in progress).

Regional integration

- The park has become more active in working cooperatively with regional representatives, becoming involved in regional planning programs and sharing park information with various regional interests. ♡

Summit Area Plan aims at parking and meadow trampling problems

*Bob Brade, Assistant Chief
Heritage Communications
Mount Revelstoke National Park*

The summit of Mount Revelstoke is one of only a few places in western Canada where timberline meadows are easily reached by vehicle. The meadows, punctuated by spires of alpine fir, treat visitors to an explosion of colourful flowers each summer. Cool and fragrant air carries the call of the gray jay across snow and ice of the Clachnacudainn Range.

More than 20,000 people visit the summit every year, taxing existing parking facilities and too often wandering off paths to trample the meadows. Parking and meadow trampling have become concerns of the Canadian Parks Service — concerns it aims to address in the Summit Area Plan, a detailed offshoot of the park management plan.

During July and August of 1990, a study was undertaken to compare alternative ways to discourage off-trail walking. CPS found that by greeting every visitor reaching the summit area and handing them a conservation-oriented brochure, off-trail walking could be reduced by 70 per cent.

The spring of 1991 was cool and white. The road to the summit

was not totally clear of snow until July 26. As an experiment, the park introduced a shuttle service, allowing visitors to leave their vehicles at Balsam Lake and hop onto the shuttle for a 1.5-km ride to the summit.

The shuttle service not only alleviated parking pressures at the summit, but offered park staff ample opportunity to hand out brochures, pass on the conservation message, and hear suggestions brought up by visitors. A tear-off

section in the brochure provided visitors with additional means to comment on summit area management.

Experience and insight gained through these two summers will guide the area planning team in devel-



A shuttle bus service alleviated parking congestion at the summit of Mt. Revelstoke and provided a means to inform visitors about resource management activities.

oping more lasting solutions to the problems encountered at the summit of Mt. Revelstoke. The area plan will aim to show that adequate facilities and a high-quality visitor experience can be compatible with protecting alpine meadows.

The Summit Area Plan's recommendations will serve to both preserve this important piece of Canadian heritage and meet park visitors' needs. For more information on the plan, please contact the park superintendent (see page 23). ♡



Plans proceeding in Waterton, Field, Lake Louise, Jasper communities

Neil MacDonald, Town Planner
Calgary

It has been a busy and fruitful year for Canadian Parks Service community planners. During the spring and summer of 1991, public sessions were held in Waterton, Jasper and Field as part of a variety of projects:

Jasper Housing Study

A very successful forum was held last June 18 as part of the Jasper Housing Study. About 70 people participated in small group discussions to review local housing issues and comment on the proposed strategy.

Following the completion of the Housing Study earlier this year, the Jasper Town Committee organ-

ized an open house to discuss the study's implementation.

Waterton Community Plan

An open house held last June 15 to discuss issues relating to the Waterton Community Plan attracted about 30 people. The public input helped planners flesh out and refine issues, and was fed into a planning workshop held in the community on July 6. At the workshop, representatives from local community groups devised a proposed land-use regime for Waterton.

An open house will be held in Waterton on May 16-17 to present residents and visitors with various proposals and options for the community.

Field Community Plan

An open house was held to review the draft Field Community Plan last June 25. The meeting allowed local residents to comment on proposed changes in the community, including traffic circulation and residential development policies. About 25 attended.

The community plan is nearing completion, and will soon be sent to Ottawa for final review.

Area Structure Plan for Lake Louise

An area structure plan for the last, large parcel of housing land in the visitor service centre is being prepared this summer by a team of consultants. Also slated for the area are a day care and housing associated with the existing medical clinic. ➤

Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho plan reviews

The public will soon be asked to get involved in helping the Canadian Parks Service review the management plans that guide Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho. These crucial plans, all of which were approved in 1988 following the extensive Four Mountain Park planning program, are subject to review every five years.

There is a sense of excitement around CPS as we prepare for the plan reviews. Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho form one of the largest contiguous protected areas in the world; in 1985, they were jointly declared a World Heritage Site.

Many challenging issues must be resolved during the reviews. Each issue, however, presents an opportunity to improve the way the parks are managed. Hopes are high that innovative planning, progressive consultation approaches and constructive public involvement will combine to meet the challenges.

How shall we run the plan reviews? What items do you feel should be addressed? CPS could use your help! To get more information, or to make sure you're part this important process, please use the mailback card on page 24.



Do you have a comment, question or concern about a particular national park, historic site, planning or consultation program? If so, we'd like to hear from you. Please send your query to the Public Consultation Coordinator at the address on the back of this newsletter. Thanks — your involvement makes it work!

Parkway plan focuses on wildlife

Bill Overend
Public Consultation Coordinator
Calgary

Reducing wildlife road kills by improving traffic management and highway maintenance practices were the main thrusts of a draft plan for the Banff-Windermere Highway that went before the public last summer.

The Canadian Parks Service ran an open house at the Invermere Community Centre on June 8, 1991 to hear reactions to its proposals for the highway, which connects Castle Junction, on the Trans-Canada Highway, to Radium Hot Springs, on Highway 95 in the Columbia Valley.

Almost 100 people, including

naturalists, truck drivers, tourists, business people and Columbia Valley residents, took the opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan.

In preparing the plan, CPS is trying to resolve a worsening conflict between the two roles of the road-way: transportation corridor between Alberta and the Columbia Valley; and focus of visitor activity within Kootenay National Park. The main problem is wildlife mortality; every year about 50 elk, deer and other large animals are killed in collisions with vehicles in Kootenay.

Public input collected at the open house and over the summer will combine with direction from the CPS mandate for resource protection, the approved Kootenay National

Park Management Plan (1988), current and projected parkway use patterns and data drawn from wildlife monitoring to help planners and park managers finalize the plan.

Kootenay's superintendent is expected to approve the document this spring. The planning process has already had positive spin-offs: CPS now chairs a joint committee of trucking and resource industry representatives in order to cooperatively resolve the traffic and wildlife problems on the highway.

Thanks to all those who took part in this planning program! If you have questions about the process, or if you would like a copy of the plan once it is completed, please contact the Public Consultation Office (see page 24). 🐾

SAFETY TIPS

- Whenever possible, avoid driving at night or in hazardous conditions.
- Observe and obey speed limits, wildlife warnings and suggested night driving speeds.
- Slow down when you see wildlife; more is likely nearby.
- Warn other drivers of the presence of wildlife by flashing your hazard lights.

A sampling of public comments

- *Truck traffic should not be penalized to accommodate summer tourist traffic.*
- *You should consider eliminating commercial truck traffic if a cooperative approach to modifying traffic to reduce impact does not work.*
- *Proper enforcement of regulations would minimize conflicts on the highway.*
- *Highway expansion is not appropriate in a World Heritage Site.*
- *I hope there will never be a need to restrict hours or type of traffic on the parkway.*
- *Stop using salt on the roads.*
- *It is unfair to single out truck traffic as a cause of the problems, as it is only 7 per cent of the traffic stream.*
- *Upgrading of road surface and passing lanes is commendable.*
- *There is a problem with truck engine brake noise on the visitor strip just outside the park.*



Vehicle-wildlife collisions are a serious public safety concern as well as a wildlife protection problem.



A vision for the Maligne

Dave Kaegi, Park Planner
Calgary

There burst upon us that which, all in our company agreed, was the finest view any of us had ever beheld in the Rockies. ... There it lay, for the time being all ours, — those miles and miles of lake, the unnamed peaks rising above us, one following the other, each more beautiful than the last.

Since intrepid explorer Mary Schäffer penned these superlatives in 1908, Maligne Lake and its surprise-laden valley in Jasper National Park have been visited by millions. Like Mary and her party, few come away unmoved.

The Canadian Parks Service endeavors to honor the valley's legacy by limiting development and carefully monitoring use so that generations of visitors can have a taste of what Schäffer experienced. To this end, CPS last year prepared a "concept plan," intended to guide resolution of current and future management issues affecting the valley. The plan is consistent with the Jasper National Park Management Plan (1988). It consists of a vision statement, a set of guiding



The Maligne Valley, located 5 km east of Jasper townsite, contains important and fragile habitats, including wintering range for woodland caribou.

principles, and an addendum of approaches to current issues. Here are some highlights of its vision:

- Maligne Valley will be maintained in a natural, wild state.
- Wilderness values will be the foundation of all management actions.
- The ecosystem will be protected for its intrinsic natural value, and to ensure a continued "mountain wilderness" experience.

- Ecological integrity will be the first priority.
- Park visitors will be able to experience the valley through low-impact recreational activities and heritage education.

Do you support this vision?
Do you see another fate for the valley?

If you require more information, please use the mailback form on page 24. ➔

Environmental Education

by Bill Fisher, Calgary

In keeping with direction from Canada's Green Plan and Western Region's Strategic Plan, an environmental education section has been established in Calgary. Although

the section has yet to determine its long term goals and responsibilities it will be building on the consultations and recommendations that arose from the Heritage Interpretation and Environmental Education Task Force meetings held last winter. The section will be work-

ing closely with the Ministries of Education, school boards and environmental education organizations in Alberta and British Columbia.

For further information on this new section please contact us at (403) 292-4401. ➔

Lodge planning guidelines to go public

Steven de Keijzer, Park Planner
Calgary

The Canadian Parks Service expects to request public comment on draft planning guidelines for the redevelopment of Jasper Park Lodge during the fall of 1992.

The lodge, a landmark in Jasper National Park since 1922, was purchased by Canadian Pacific Hotels Ltd. from Canadian National in 1988. Shortly after, CP Hotels approached CPS with a proposal to initiate the long-range development process.

Shortly after, CPS requested CP hotels to consider their development objectives for the lodge. These objectives include a significant increase in guest accommodation, new staff housing, and the expansion of the existing golf course from 18 to 36 holes.

The Jasper National Park Management Plan (1988) allows for possible development on the Jasper



Jasper Park Lodge's leasehold area is designated in the park management plan as Zone IV - Outdoor Recreation. Located in the biologically important montane ecoregion, it is the largest developed area in the park outside of Jasper townsite.


Park Lodge leasehold lands. It directs that a separate planning process be undertaken to provide redevelopment guidance, and to ensure that the development is environmentally and socially appropriate.

Because of the significance of the proposed redevelopment, public consultation is expected to play an

integral part of the planning and review process. The public will have two opportunities for formal comment: one to review the draft planning guidelines, and another to review the draft Long Range Development Plan.

The draft planning guidelines will be available for public review during the summer of 1992.

The guidelines will address environmental, cultural, architectural, aesthetic and socio-economic issues associated with redevelopment. They will ensure that visitor and local needs are met, while protecting and enhancing ecological and cultural integrity. Once reviewed by the public, they will serve to guide CP Hotels in formulating a proposal for Jasper Park Lodge's Long Range Development Plan.

The mailing list for the Jasper Park Lodge redevelopment proposal now totals 420. If you aren't on the list and wish to be, please use the *Participation* mailback card. 

CPS and Brewster Transport team up

Keith Shepherd
Icefield Project Coordinator
Jasper National Park

The Canadian Parks Service and Brewster Transportation and Tours are jointly exploring means to replace existing visitor facilities at the Columbia Icefield.

The icefield, located at the southern tip of Jasper National Park along the Icefields Parkway between Lake Louise and Jasper townsite, is visited by more than 500,000 visitors a year.

However, visitor facilities — the Icefield Chalet, a service station, CPS information centre and Brewster ticketing facilities — are not adequate to meet current and projected visitor demand.

With current budget constraints, CPS would not have se-


cured the funds to redesign and reconstruct a visitor information centre on its own. But Brewster's expressed interest in a proposed joint visitor facility has created new possibilities.

Highlighting the proposal is the replacement of the existing information centre, the Brewster ticket office and Icefield Chalet with a new 4,000-square-metre visitor reception centre, to be jointly tenanted by Brewster and CPS. Other aspects of the project include improvements to the Icefields Parkway, automobile and tour bus parking lots, an upgrade to the sewage treatment facility, rehabilitation of old landscape scars, and provision of staff housing.

Of significant benefit to CPS will be the new centre's capacity for environmental education. Other

benefits include alleviating overcrowding, remedying aesthetic concerns and environmental impacts, and addressing public safety concerns associated with design of the Icefields Parkway.

Socio-economic studies to determine visitor demands on the area were completed last summer. Other studies carried out in support of the project include initial traffic safety recommendations, geotechnical surveys for building sites, and testing to determine the area's suitability for solar power generation.

If federal government approvals are granted, CPS will negotiate a final agreement with Brewster and proceed with design work over the coming year. Information sessions to describe the project to the public are expected to occur this fall. 



Wetland plans win approval

Judy Otton, Park Planner
Banff National Park

Plans for the environmentally significant Vermilion Lakes and Cave & Basin wetland areas, located in Banff National Park west of the town of Banff, were approved in April, 1990 following a public open house in Banff where solid support was expressed for plan proposals.

Implementation began this year with an in-depth study aimed at better understanding the complex ecology of the wetlands, the impacts of the Canadian Pacific Railway line and Trans-Canada Highway, and

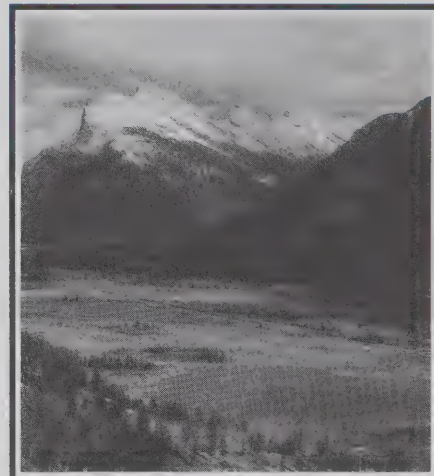
resource management actions consistent with a more naturally functioning ecosystem.

In keeping with the results of special studies and the Banff National Park Management Plan, the area plans confirm that natural water regimes will prevail in the wetlands.

Proposals for the Cave & Basin Wetlands are low-key. They consist primarily of improvements to orientation signs and interpretation media.

Key objectives of the redevelopment program for the Vermilion Lakes are to ensure that the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists take precedence over motor vehicles, and to maintain the pleasant, leisurely paced ambience of the area.

The main proposals for the Vermilion Lakes area include: a substantial enhancement of interpretation media and roadside viewing areas; a new trail for bicyclists and pedestrians linking the end of Vermilion Lakes Drive with the Bow Valley Parkway; two short board-



Our understanding of the complex ecology of wetlands has been enhanced by recent scientific studies.

walks to bring visitors into the wetlands environment; and re-surfacing of Vermilion Lakes Drive.

The Canadian Parks Service will devote attention to maintaining the environmental and visual quality of the area, along with protecting the many significant archaeological resources found near the Vermilion Lakes. ♡



The Vermilion Lakes area contains critical habitat for a wide range of wildlife species.

Public input to be sought for Lake Minnewanka

The Banff National Park Management Plan calls for an area plan to address specific concerns associated with the Lake Minnewanka area, including parking and circulation, marina facilities, and resource management issues.

Planning work will begin this spring, while a comprehensive visitor survey and creel (fishing) census were carried out in the summer of 1991 to fill identified information gaps.

Located a few minutes' drive north of the Trans-Canada Highway, Lake Minnewanka is one of the park's most popular day-use areas.



Lake Minnewanka is the scenic highlight of many visitors' park experience. The lake was dammed in 1912, and again in 1941, for hydroelectric power generation.

Hiking, boating, mountain biking and diving are among the many activities this scenic frontcountry area offers.

Area planning will address the entire Lake Minnewanka loop road and associated roadside facilities, the lakeshore day use areas, visitor information and interpretation, and resource management actions.

Public input will be invited during an open house or public meeting in the Town of Banff. If you'd like to be kept informed, please use the mailback card on page 24. ♡



Family Day visitors consulted on the future of Elk Island National Park

Katharine O'Brian
Public Consultation Specialist
Calgary

Elk Island adopted an innovative approach to public consultation when it hosted a special Family Day event for park visitors.

On February 17, park staff and members of the local cooperative association welcomed more than 1,800 Edmonton-and-area visitors to Elk Island National Park, to enjoy a day of family recreation — and to take part in the park's management plan review.

Participants were introduced first-hand to issues affecting the park, including a proposal to locate an Edmonton region landfill adjacent to park boundaries. They were offered a "management issues" driving tour, guided ski trips, skating on Astotin Lake, and "Behind the Scenes" tours of seldom-visited areas such as the new elk handling facility and bison paddock.

Outdoor activities were followed by a cup of hot chocolate, films and slide presentations on the operation and management of Elk Island, and an opportunity to discuss the park's future with Superintendent Fred Bamber and the planning team.

Elk Island's management plan has guided park management for the last 13 years. However, much has changed since the plan's development in the mid-1970s. Canadian Parks Service policies, knowledge of the park's heritage resources, regional development, tourism, and awareness of the threatened environment have all evolved.

In reviewing the plan, CPS is trying to resolve a number of issues, including:

- Ecological integrity.



Located 45 km east of Edmonton on Yellowhead Highway 16, Elk Island National Park represents the transitional boreal forest/grassland ecosystem, home to bison, elk and the endangered Trumpeter Swan.

- Partnerships for furthering the park's mandate of environmental sustainability.
- The impact of recreational activities on resources.
- An expanding need for environmental education, science and research.
- The management of historical resources.

Background papers have been

prepared for each issue and are available from the public consultation office in Calgary.

A second round of public consultation is planned for early 1993 to review the proposed plan concept for Elk Island.

Please complete the *Participation* mailback card if you would like to receive news of future opportunities to comment on the plan. 7

Village of Stirling a national historic site

Rod Pickard, Historic Park Planner, Calgary

The Village of Stirling, Alberta, 45 km southeast of Lethbridge, was selected in 1989 by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada as a representative and well-preserved example of the Mormon village prairie settlement pattern.

The Canadian Parks Service intends to work with the community to develop plans for both the protection of the village pattern, and interpretation of the settlement story.

Discussions to date have focused on methods of presenting the settlement pattern and on protection of a representative home site including house, barn, shed and related features.





Planners forge progress at Rocky Mountain House

Rod Pickard, Historic Park Planner
Calgary

Since the release of an informational newsletter in April, 1991, planners have been working hard on the management plan for the Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site.

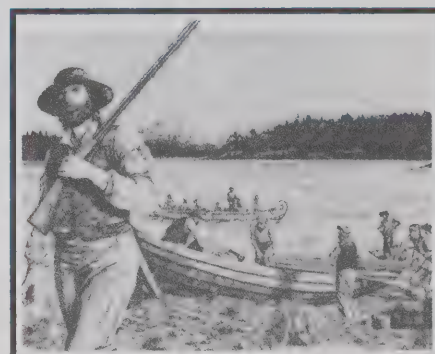
The final plan is expected to provide strategic direction for service, presentation, resource protection and visitor use requirements at the site, based on a detailed examination of future trends, cultural resource significance and sensitivity, and the regional context.

The plan isn't ready for a full public review yet. But then again, the history of the old trading post, first constructed in 1799, wasn't forged overnight, either. Here is a recap of last year's planning progress:

- **May, June, 1991:** Public comment in response to the newsletter is

received and analyzed.

- **June, July:** Plan concept is developed and circulated for internal review. Aerial photos of site are taken for use in plan presentation.
- **August:** Planning team's preliminary ideas are presented to the Tourism Action Committee in Rocky Mountain House.
- **September:** A contract is signed with a student team from the University of Calgary Environmental Design Faculty to conduct a multidisciplinary planning study of Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site during the fall term.
- **October:** The student team presents its initial findings to Rocky Mountain House Tourism Action Committee and local river users.
- **December:** An evening coffee house is held in Rocky Mountain House to allow the student team to present its conclusions to the



Between 1799 and 1875, fur traders, voyagers, explorers and natives paddled along the North Saskatchewan River to Rocky Mountain House.

community at large.

- **March, 1992:** A contract is signed with an architectural firm to prepare sketches of proposed improvements to the site's visitor centre and trails.

The student team's findings and sketches will assist the completion of the draft plan for the historic site.

Interested members of the public will be invited to review the draft plan at an open house later this year. Following final adjustments, the plan will be submitted for the approval of the federal Environment Minister. ➤

CPS a partner in earthlodge village project

During the summer of 1990 and spring of 1991 the Siksika Nation, Alberta Culture and the Canadian Parks Service met to explore ways to protect and present the only "earthlodge village" known to remain on the Canadian Prairies.

The village, an arrangement of earthen dwellings, was constructed about 1740 by a group of natives from the Middle Missouri region of the Dakotas, according to archaeologist Richard Forbis.

Today, a discontinuous semicircular fortification ditch enclosing several small pits marks the site.

The village is located on the Blackfoot (Siksika Nation) Reserve in the Bow River Valley, about 110 km east of Calgary. Visitors to the site must obtain special permission from the Siksika Nation office.

In September of 1991, a cost-shared feasibility study was initiated

to examine, at a conceptual level, potential development options for the site.

The results of the study will be used by the Siksika Nation, Alberta Culture and CPS to establish future protection, presentation and investment priorities for the village. ➤

Ranching earns commemoration

Cowboys, round-ups, branding time — the ranching era was one of the most distinct and colourful periods in the settlement of the Canadian West.

In 1988, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada reaffirmed that the ranching theme

was of national significance and warranted commemoration through the preservation of a historic ranch in Alberta.

Canada's Green Plan (1990) identified ranching as one of the historic themes requiring representation in the system of national

historic sites.

CPS is currently developing a mailing list of individuals interested in the preservation and presentation of ranching industry history. If you have ideas to share or would like to receive information, please see page 24.

Parks partners promote, produce, protect

Shelley Willson, Co-op Student, Calgary

Parents request an information seminar on emergency wilderness survival for their children. Visitors show interest in a re-enactment of a historic canoe brigade. Researchers identify the need for additional data to enhance a coyote study. The Canadian Parks Service would help out, but it is strapped for resources. Who can provide these services?

Often it's a non-profit cooperating group, formed to promote and care for its local national park. Occasionally, the answer is a project run jointly by CPS and another interested organization. Sometimes, the solution is volunteers — people who spend their own time on the betterment of a park or site.

Elk Island National Park is lucky enough to have on its side the Friends of Elk Island Society, who hope to raise \$165,000 to support the reintroduction of the rare Trumpeter swan, and has also contributed to thwarting proposals for a garbage dump on the park boundary.

The 100-strong Friends of Yoho National Park Society produce and sell topographical maps and other products for visitors. Society activities include helping with the park's recycling program and organizing Parks Day celebrations.

The list of cooperative accomplishments goes on:

- Since 1986, the Waterton Natural History Association has operated a visitor centre in Waterton Lakes National Park and offers low-cost courses on natural history taught by professionals in the field.
- At Mt. Revelstoke and Glacier national parks, the Friends society has recently focused on a bear education program for the town of Revelstoke.
- Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site is very involved with the local community; last year, Rocky's Friends society recruited more than 100 volunteers for Canada Day festivities alone! The site also jointly organized a successful native Awareness Week with the Rocky Native Friendship Centre.
- Banff National Park cooperates not only with its official Friends society, which last spring hosted a thought-provoking panel discussion on the future of wildlife in the Bow Valley, but with many other groups. These include the Banff Recycling Society, Bow Valley Naturalists and Trout Unlimited.
- At Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site in Victoria, the "Rodd Hill Friends Society" run the canteen and arrange for the 5th B.C. Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery Band to play every Sunday throughout the summer.



CPS partner Len Shandruck tags a rare Trumpeter Swan at the Elk Island National Park.

People don't have to join a Friends society to get involved in a park or site. At Yoho, for example, volunteers contribute a wide variety of skills to various projects: tracking wild animals; working in the library; taking photographs; and creating graphic art.

If you're interested in getting involved with either a parks partnership or a park or site, please phone your local park or historic site, or call the Western Region Volunteer Coordinator at (403) 221-7999, or 292-8817. 🐾

Access is improving for visitors with disabilities

Rick Reynolds

*Head, Service and Facility Planning
Calgary*

The Canadian Parks Service has taken a new look at park facilities, services, programs and opportunities — from the perspective of visitors with disabilities.

With almost 3.5 million Canadians experiencing some form of disability, the time is right for CPS to ensure access for all.

The CPS "Access Program" began during the summer of 1990, with the preparation of access plans for each of the national parks and national historic sites in Alberta and British Columbia. A full year of planning resulted in the identification of more than 110 projects aimed at providing barrier-free services for visitors with disabilities.

CPS could not have accomplished this alone. The success of the planning phase of the Access Program is a tribute to our Regional Access Advisory Council, made up of individual representatives of partner agencies, which provided advice on everything from broad barrier-free access strategies to detailed designs.

These agencies included the Alberta Council on Aging, British Columbia Seniors Resources & Research Society, Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (B.C.), Canadian National Institute for the Blind (Alberta and B.C.), Canadian Paraplegic Association (Alberta and B.C.), and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Association (Calgary).

With barrier-free access improvements identified and costed, the next phase of the program has begun. CPS has committed to making structural and landscape improvements by the end of 1996, and improvements to communications media and exhibits by 1998.

Construction was recently finished on the Emerald Lake Trail



Gary Miller of the Regional Access Advisory Council experiments with the electronic stair lift designed for visitors with disabilities, Cave and Basin, Banff National Park.

in Yoho, the first project to be funded through the Access Program. Telecommunications Devices For The Deaf and FM listening assistance systems will be available at

every park and site by the summer of 1992. Tactile exhibit and trip-planning brochure pilot projects are now complete; and captioned A/V programs will soon be available at every park and site. Design work is nearly complete for the information centres in Roger Pass and in the towns of Banff, Field and Jasper.

Forty-eight new projects are scheduled to get under way within the next year, including the production of a talking book for Elk Island National Park, redevelopment of the Wickaninnish Beach day-use area at Pacific Rim, and changes to the Big House at Fort Langley National Historic Site.

A CPS training program structured to acquaint staff with the needs of people with disabilities will also get underway in the near future. ➤

Surveys serve up surprises

Public meetings, comment sheets, suggestion boxes and "the word on the street" have their uses. But there was a time when the Canadian Parks Service had at its disposal nothing more statistically valid on which to plan services and facilities for visitors. With the application of socio-economic theories and expertise, that time has passed.

Scientifically designed questionnaires distributed to a random sample of visitors in certain areas of the park, or at certain times of the year, now help us determine specific visitor needs and concerns and allow planners to test their assumptions.

A survey conducted in 1991 on 1,500 visitors to Lake Minnewanka in Banff National Park, for example, served up a couple of surprises.

Finding parking at the lake had been suspected to be a problem, yet 95 per cent of respondents indicated they had no trouble —

possibly sparing CPS the financial and environmental expense of more asphalt.

Another surprise was that visitors to Minnewanka are primarily land-based. Generally, they go to use the trails, picnic or camp, rather than to stroll the lakeshore, go for a paddle, fish, or ride on a motorized vessel. The beauty of Lake Minnewanka, the survey indicated, serves as a backdrop rather than a stage.

Results could be shown to speak for the total annual visitor count of 50,000 -- 19 times out of 20 within plus or minus three percentage points.

Socio-Economic staff in CPS Western Region are responsible for collecting, interpreting and feeding recommendations from such data to CPS management. To find out more about their procedures and approaches, please give them a call at (403) 292-4503. They'd be happy to hear from you. ➤

Getting planning on the ground

Plan pauses

Planning integration will speed up our planning programs considerably in the future. But while we reorganize, some delays are being encountered:

Pacific Rim

The Pacific Rim planning program was one of those affected by our reorganization. Much has already been completed, including the analysis of considerable public comment. A draft final plan will now be prepared, with a formal consultation program scheduled for September and October. Informal consultation with interest groups will continue throughout the final plan preparation.

Fort St. James

The historic site's management plan was almost ready for public review when the program was suspended. Once planning integration has taken place and resourcing levels are more certain, Superintendent Pat Inglis anticipates that the plan will be able to go to the public with some adjustments.

Other minor delays

Planning integration has caused a pause in planning programs for a few other parks and sites. Most management plans, however, are expected to be finished on schedule, while targets for area and community plans have gone essentially unaffected.

Bill Overend
Public Consultation Coordinator
Calgary

A recent study turned up the existence of some 45 types of plans within the Canadian Parks Service: everything from conservation plans to costuming plans.

All had honest beginnings; each was created to satisfy a particular management or public need. But the overall result is unwieldy: a proliferation of complex and overlapping plans, often independent of resource allocation and sometimes challenging to implement.

A recent thrust within CPS is intended to correct this situation. It's called *planning integration*, and its goals are to reduce the number of plans produced, shift planning emphasis to strategic, results-based management, connect planning efforts with the field-level people who are making decisions, and focus on IMPLEMENTATION.

If you've been waiting for news on the progress of a particular plan, but you've heard nothing lately, we apologize. Long-term gains should more than compensate for the disruptions being experienced now.

What does planning integration look like? Well, existing plans will be replaced by three plans: Strategic Management Plans, Business Plans, and Work Plans.

At the *strategic* level, management intentions and vision over a 10-to-15 year timeframe will be mapped out for each park and site. "Strategic" management plans will indicate results expected in terms of protection of resources and provi-

sion of visitor opportunities. Existing park or site plans, developed with public consultation, will fit with some adjustments into this level.

Business plans will detail implementation of the Park Strategic Management Plan. To see plans actually come to fruition, we need to spell out the who, when, where and how of the "what." Direction for conservation, service, human and financial priorities belong here. Partnership possibilities will also be addressed at the implementation level.

... we're counting on this renewed system to help us turn good intentions into concrete progress — thus better protecting and presenting heritage resources.

Work planning anchors those broad visions and good intentions. Work plans will be pre-

pared annually, setting out a time and cost schedule for completion of various projects and activities.

Accountability agreements will serve to commit CPS employees to achieving the intended results. At this level, supervisor and employee will sit down together to agree on a list of measurable performance objectives.

Planning integration won't solve every problem that CPS faces. In a world of tight financial resources, however, we're counting on this renewed system to help us turn good intentions into concrete progress - thus better protecting and presenting heritage resources. 🍁

Canada

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How shall we consult you?

Bill Overend

Public Consultation Coordinator
Calgary

The best way to consult, we know, is across the kitchen table with a good cup of coffee.

But other ways have been tried. Citizens' forums, project review panels, round tables on the environment and economy — governments attach great weight to involving the public in decision making.

Unfortunately, CPS can't sip coffee with every interested stakeholder across the land. And many of our traditionally accepted means of consultation — open houses, hearings, response forms — aren't giving us the quantity or quality of input that we need. So we're considering improvements.

Methods we're looking at trying include a dedicated toll-free phone line, mass participation events, video distribution, focused "constituent assemblies" and media opportunities. Methods we're already using — meetings, com-



Brian Sheehan, Kootenay National Park Warden, and participant discuss Kootenay Parkway Area Plan Proposals at consultation open house, June, 1991.

ment sheets, newsletters and display panels — are under reviewed to increase their effectiveness.

We've recognized a need to track the views of our most involved public, including special interest groups, education professionals, park residents, provincial government departments, environmentalists, historians, cooperating associations and politicians.

To this end, regular meetings and special workshops are under examination. We've tried a few, and so far they're paying off.

To ensure that consultation is both pertinent to our stakeholders and relevant to CPS, we've realized we must take a harder look at the questions we ask. Do you need to be consulted on the number of stalls proposed for a washroom? Perhaps

not. Do you want a say in the overall level of visitor facilities in the Lake O'Hara area? Most probably.

Better ways to consult are being brainstormed now. How shall we consult you? Your suggestions could help to shape the way CPS carries out public consultation in the 1990s and beyond. Please contact the Western Region Public Consultation Office, or the superintendent in your area. ➔

Watch for...

Special events

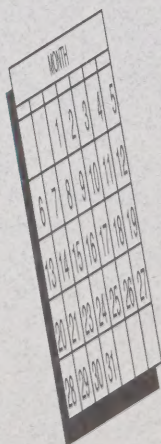
Canada 125 celebrations July 1
(and all of 1992!)

Environment Week June 1-7

Parks Day (75th anniversary
of national historic sites) July 18

Banff Park Museum
National Historic Site

Commemoration July 18



Public consultation programs

Elk Island Management Plan Review Spring/Fall 1992

Maligne Valley Area Concept Plan Summer 1992

Rocky Mountain House
Management Plan Fall 1992

Four Mountain Park Review Fall 1992, 1993

Pacific Rim Management Plan Fall 1992

Gwaii Haanas/South Moresby
Management Plan 1992, 1993

Call your superintendent for more information on programs or events in your area!



Think Recycling!
Pensez à recycler!

Finished with this newsletter? Don't throw it out — pass it around!

CPS CONTACTS 1992

Banff National Park

Box 900, Banff, Alberta T0L 0C0
(403) 762-1500

Elk Island National Park

Site 4, R.. #1, Fort Saskatchewan,
Alberta T8L 2N7
(403) 992-6380

Jasper National Park

Box 10, Jasper, Alberta T0E 1E0
(403) 852-6161

Kootenay National Park

Box 220, Radium Hot Springs, B.C.
V0A 1M0
(604) 347-9615

Mt. Revelstoke/Glacier National Parks

Box 350, Revelstoke, B.C. V0E 2S0
(604) 837-7500

Pacific Rim National Park Reserve

Box 280, Ucluelet, B.C. V0R 3A0
(604) 726-7721

Gwaii Haanas /South Moresby

Box 37, Queen Charlotte City, B.C.
V0T 1S0
(604) 559-8818

Waterton Lakes National Park

Waterton Lakes, Alberta T0K 2M0
(403) 859-2224

Yoho National Park

Box 99, Field, B.C. V0A 1G0
(604) 343-6332

Fort Langley National Historic Site

Box 129, Fort Langley, B.C. V0X 1J0
(604) 888-4424

**Fort Rodd Hill/Fisgard Lighthouse
National Historic Sites**

603 Fort Rodd Hill Road, Victoria, B.C.
V9C 2W8
(604) 363-4662

Fort St. James National Historic Site

Box 1148, Fort St. James, B.C. V0J 1P0
(604) 996-7191

**Gulf of Georgia Cannery National
Historic Site**

12138 - 4th Avenue, Richmond, B.C.
V7E 3J1
(604) 664-9007

**Rocky Mountain House National
Historic Site**

Box 2130, Rocky Mountain House,
Alberta T0M 1T0
(403) 845-2412

St. Roch National Historic Site

1905 Ogden Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.
V6J 1A3
(604) 666-3201

CPS West Coast Coordination Office

103 - 267 West Esplanade
North Vancouver, B.C. V7M 1A5
(604) 666-1280

CPS Western Regional Office

520, 220-4th Avenue S.E.
P.O. Box 2989, Station M
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3H8

General Information:

(403) 292-4401

Public Consultation:

(403) 292-4754

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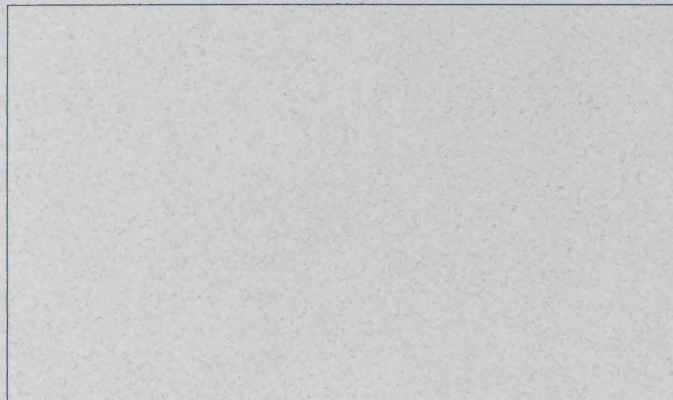
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How are we doing? Any comments on this edition of *Participation*? Ideas for future editions? Suggestions on how you would like to be consulted? We'd like to hear from you!

Thanks for participating!